

Mortimer, Adam (MAG)

From: Letang, Chris (SOLGEN)
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 7:29 PM
To: DiTommaso, Mario (SOLGEN); Stubbings, Richard (SOLGEN)
Cc: Unfried, Christa (SOLGEN); Abdi, Fuad (MCM)
Subject: Strategic Update - January 26, 2022

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-01-26 at 1700 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

- No incidents relating to a threat to vaccine administration sites, the vaccine supply chain or public health officials were reported today.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific identified threat and monitoring remains attuned toward where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy / Bearhug 2.0

National Convoy

- **The national convoy crossed the Manitoba border into Ontario on the evening of January 25, 2022 (last night). An accurate estimate of inbound vehicles to Ontario was complicated by the number of non-convoy vehicles present in the area, as well as the darkness of night. Reporting from the RCMP in Manitoba noted that the convoy was unable to make a scheduled stop in Winnipeg on January 25, 2022 due to traffic safety considerations stemming from the inclement weather and crowds of supporters present along the highway.**
- **Approximately 77 transport vehicles and 191 passenger vehicles departed Kenora this morning (January 26, 2022) as the convoy proceeded eastbound. Since then, the convoy has increased to 471 (113 commercial and 276 passenger) vehicles spanning over 50 km. Supporters have lined roadways with signs of support in multiple towns. The convoy is expected to arrive in Thunder Bay tonight. Expected time of arrival in Ottawa is Jan 29th, 2022 at 1100.**
- **The Sûreté du Québec advises that 1900 people are already protesting in Gatineau.**
- **CBSA has advised that it is unlikely that any trucks from the US will cross the border to join the convoy.**
- **The Ottawa Police Services Board held a special meeting on January 26, 2022 to discuss the upcoming, planned demonstrations on Parliament Hill. The Parliamentary Protective Service noted that it is coordinating with other security agencies in preparation for the demonstrations.**

- National media has been reporting on elements of the trucking convoy promoting beliefs and conspiracy theories associated with broader anti-authority and white supremacist ideology. Reporting on the online activity and real-time communications of convoy participants on the walkie-talkie app “Zello” indicate some supporters are advocating for violent confrontations and attempts to breach government buildings at Parliament Hill. Organizers have reportedly continued to urge for a peaceful demonstration.
- The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy remains frozen by GoFundMe until it can be determined that the funds will be distributed transparently and in accordance with their terms of service. The GoFundMe account had raised over 4 million dollars from 553,000 donors as of Tuesday morning (January 25, 2022). A separate fundraiser (“ADOPT A TRUCKER”) on the crowdfunding site “GiveSendGo.com” has raised \$27,957.

Ontario Convoys

- Protests in support of the convoy continue at the local level.
 - **The convoy in Windsor-Essex that commenced January 23, 2022 continued today with approximately 45 vehicles participating; there was minor congestion on Hwy 401, minor delays at the border, and no major issues reported. The Windsor-Essex convoy is expected to continue to January 27, 2022.**
 - **A convoy of approximately 25 vehicles is ongoing near the Canada-US border in Sarnia, Ontario. No congestion or major issues have been reported. There was one collision on January 25, 2022 where a transport truck struck the rear of a slower moving passenger vehicle involved in the convoy; the transport truck driver has been charged with careless driving.**
- Social media messaging unaffiliated with Freedom Convoy accounts is calling for a “bridge protest” in support of the Freedom Convoy for January 27, 2022 starting at 1230 hours. The messaging calls for supporters to attend bridges at the following locations: Albert Street and Simcoe Street (Oshawa); Thicksen Street and Brock Street (Whitby); Harwood Avenue (Ajax); and Brock Road (Pickering) to coincide with when the national convoy is expected to traverse Durham.
- Updates continue to be provided through provincial-wide joint intelligence groups with input from PoJ s across the country. The Ontario Provincial Police is coordinating information and awareness to potentially affected jurisdictions.

ASSESSMENT

The noted convoys commencing January 23, 2022 and culminating at Parliament Hill, Ottawa on January 28, 2022 may disrupt the movement of vehicular traffic and goods in Ontario and strain the capacity of law enforcement in the province. Supporters of the initiative may impede vehicular traffic at the local level.

Convoy organizers have repeatedly stated the intention to conduct a lawful protest and have advised participants to sign a Code of Conduct articulating the appropriate behaviour for the convoy and protest. However, available information suggests that some elements within the convoy, or supporting the convoy, could engage in actions that pose a public safety threat. Convoy organizers will almost certainly have limited ability to influence or control the behaviour of some convoy participants and protest attendees.

The fact that convoy participation has been smaller than estimated should not be taken as an indicator that the number of people participating in the Freedom Convoy will be small. **The number of potential participants and supporters who may participate in the Freedom Convoys and the protest in Ottawa remains unknown.** Online claims of current or anticipated convoy sizes are of unknown reliability. Online indicators of individuals attending are also unreliable.

False claims regarding the government's planned response to the protest continue to circulate online. False claims could exacerbate tensions and encourage convoy participants or supporters to engage in acts of extremism or violence against government assets, public officials, and law enforcement. It is also possible that these claims on social media could motivate protests in support of the convoys at the local level that could occur spontaneously or with little warning.

At this juncture there is no identified concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest.

Event Schedule

2022-01-26

- **Local Convoys:** Local convoys are occurring today in Lambton-Sarnia and Windsor-Essex.

2022-01-27

- **Local Convoys:** Local slow rolls are scheduled in Windsor-Essex until 2022-01-27.
 - **Ayr: Cheer On Our Truckers Overpass Rally** – Hwy 401 at Northumberland Rd (0930 hours).
 - **Six Nations: Commute to Ottawa** – Six Nations Bingo (1300 hours).
 - **Milton: Send-Off Freedom Convoy 2022** – Regional Rd 25 (1120-1230 hours).
 - **Kitchener-Waterloo: TriCities Support Freedom Convoy 2022** – Bridge at Hwy 401 and Homer Watson Park (1045 hours).
 - **Camden East: Freedom Convoy County Rd 4** – Hwy 401/County Rd 4 overpass (1600 hours).
 - **Strathroy: Convoy to Ottawa 2022** – Hwy 81 Strathroy (0730 hours).
 - **Vaughan: Convoy Send Off For Toronto** – Vaughan Mills, Bass Pro Shop parking lot, 1 Bass Pro Mills Drive (1130 hours).
 - **Vaughan: Cheer From The Bridge** – start time 1245 hours at the following locations:
 - Langstaff Overpass (parking Silmar Rd. Plaza);
 - Portage Parkway Overpass (parking Walmart Applewood Cres.);
 - Highway 7 Overpass (parking Cineplex Famous Ave.);
 - Shepherd Ave. Overpass (Parking Abraham Welsh Rd. at Starbucks plaza);
 - **Finale Event (1300-1515 hrs)** - Keele St. Overpass (parking at Metro on Keele/Wilson).
- **Advertisement notes that two lanes on the overpass will be shut down.****
- **Kingston: Freedom Convoy** – start time 1700 hours or later at the following locations:
 - Old Wilton Rd overpass;
 - Westbrook Rd overpass;
 - Hwy 38 between Hwy 401 and Centennial Drive.

2022-01-28

- **Owen Sound: Grey Bruce United We Stand – MTO pull-off (0900-1100 hours).**
 - Route as follows:
 - South on Hwy 6/10 South (0930 hours);
 - Depart Chatsworth (0940 hours);
 - Depart Flesherton (1010 hours);
 - Depart Shelburne (1040 hours);
 - Depart Orangeville (1100 hours);
 - East on Hwy 9 to Hwy 400 South;
 - East Hwy 401 on route to Ottawa.
- **Innisfil: Freedom Convoy 2022 – 400 OnRoute (before 1000 hours).** Vehicles will drive to 1 Bass Pro Mills Road to cheer on the convoy.
- **Hamilton: Hamilton Sends Off Convoy for Freedom – 349 Kenora Avenue, Hamilton (0900 hours).**
- **Espanola: Protest – Hwy 17 and Hwy 6 (0900 hours).**
- **Trenton: Freedom Convoy Trenton HWY 401-HWY 401 Glenn Miller exit (Ramada Inn) (1400 hours).**
- **Kingston: Freedom Convoy – start time 1930 hours at the following locations:**
 - Hwy 38 between Hwy 401 and Centennial Dr;
 - Sydenham Rd overpass;
 - Montreal St overpass.

Chris Letang
Provincial Security Advisor
Office of the Provincial Security Advisor
Ministry of the Solicitor General
Province of Ontario
(416) 419-3219

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this email is confidential. It may also be privileged or protected by other legal rules. If you are not the intended recipient, please let us know by email reply and permanently delete the message from your system. You may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone.